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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 E-15 EUR-17 CIAE-00 DODE-00 JPM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4633
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

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SUBJ: IDENTIFICATION MILITARY COUP LEADERS

(1) 1. POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS ANNOUNCED SENIOR OFFICER OF MILITARY COUP SA'AD AL DIIN 'ABU SHAWAARIB: DUTCH CHARGE TOLD EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 3 HE HAD PREVIOUS AFTERNOON OBSERVED CIVILIAN AUTOMOBILE PRECEDED AND FOLLOWED BY PICK-UP TRUCKS FILLED WITH HEAVILY ARMED SOLDIERS PULL UP IN FRONT OF TRIPOLI CENTRAL POST OFFICE. OLDER MAN IN UNIFORM BUT WITHOUT INSIGNIA STEPPED OUT OF CAR AND SWEPT UP STEPS INTO BUILDING TO ACCOMPANIMENT SALUTES AND HEEL CLICKING FROM ALL BYSTANDERS. OBVIOUS VIP APPEARED BE OLDER MAN WITH HEAVY DARK MOUSTACHE WHO HAD AIR ABOUT HIM OF BRITISH MILITARY OFFICER. LACK OF INSIGNIA WOULD FIT WITH 'ABU SHAWAARIB'S FORMAL SEPARATION (WHETHER RETIREMENT, RESIGNATION OR DISMISSAL UNCLEAR) FROM LIBYAN ARMY IN 1967 AFTER JUNE WAR. BRITISH BEARING FITS FBIS MONITOR REPORT THAT 'ABU SHAWAARIB AT ONE POINT WAS STUDENT AT SANDHURST.

2. DANISH CHARGE TOLD CHARGE SEPTEMBER 3 HE HAD ENCOUNTERED YOUNG ROYAL LIBYAN AIR FORCE "CAPTAIN" AT RCC HEADQUARTERS SEPTEMBER 2 WHO SPOKE EXCELLENT

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ENGLISH AND GERMAN AND WHO HAD TOLD DANISH DIPLOMAT HE HAD SPENT 6 YEARS IN GERMANY IN SCHOOL/TRAINING. ALTHOUGH THERE DOES NOT APPEAR BE ANY RLAF CAPTAIN THAT FITS DESCRIPTION, THERE ARE THREE FIRST LIEUTENANTS WHO SPENT 6 YEARS IN MILITARY ACADEMY AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS IN GERMANY. ALL THREE HAVE MADE NO SECRET THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH TRADITIONAL ELITES AND WITH THEIR LIFE IN RLAF. TWO TOLD AFSECMAAG OFFICERS THEY WERE ATTEMPTING "BUY THEIR WAY OUT" OF AIR FORCE (REPAY COST OF THEIR FOREIGN TRAINING) AND THIRD WANTED TO, BUT COULD NOT, DUE LACK MONEY. EVALUATION OF THREE BY AFSEC OFFICERS SUGGEST FIRST LIEUTENANT 'ABDALLAH IBRAHIM SA'IID, C-47 CO-PILOT SERIAL NUMBER 582 IS MOST PROBABLE OF THREE. SECOND POSSIBILITY IS ASHUUR AMQIIQ, C-47 NAVIGATOR AND SCHEDULING OFFICER (FINANCIALLY LIMITED ONE), SERIAL NUMBER 583. LEAST LIKELY IS MUHAMMAD NAJMI AL-DIIN AL-YAAZIJI, C-47 PILOT (MEDICRE), SERIAL NUMBER 584. NONE, HOWEVER, IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN NOTICEABLY ABSENT FROM RLAF AREA DURING WORKING HOURS PAST THREE DAYS.

3. LT. QADHAAFI MENTIONED TWICE IN BENGHAZI REPORTS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS FIRST LIEUTENANT MU'AMMIR MUHAMMAD AL-QADHAAFI, SERIAL NUMBER 451. OF TWO OTHER QADHAAFIS WITH RANK FIRST LIEUTENANT OR EQUIVALENT, ONE IS MUHAMMAD HUSAYN OF ROYAL LIBYAN NAVY, SERIAL NUMBER 587. HE IS RLN LIEUTENANT (J.G.) WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF SOMETIME AGO AS SKIPPER ONE OF NEW FAST PATROL BOATS. HE WAS NOT, HOWEVER, AMONG OFFICERS LISTED AS PT BOAT CAPTAIN BY ACTING COMMANDER NAVY DURING PREPARATIONS NOW CANCELED USS ZELLARS VISIT. APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 26, HE TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS PLANNING VISIT BENGHAZI IN NEAR FUTURE TO ATTEND WEDDING. SECOND IS JUM'A RAMADAAN SA'IID, SERIAL NUMBER 581. LETTER IS RLAF F-5 PILOT WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ON DUTY IN RLAF AREA WHEELUS FOR PAST THREE DAYS.

DECON SEPTEMBER 1970
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